XXXV. *Account of ſome Bones found in the Rock of* Gibraltar, *in a Letter from* John Boddington, *Eſq; to Dr.* William Hunter, *F. R. S. with ſome Remarks from Dr.* Hunter *in a Letter to Dr.* Mathew Maty, *M. D. Sec. R. S.*

Dear Sir,

Read Feb. 1, 1770. I BEG your acceptance of a piece of the rock of Gibraltar, which my friend Colonel Green, chief engineer of that garriſon, has brought from thence, and given to me as a natural curioſity: it appears to me a very extraordinary one indeed; therefore, I ſhall attempt to explain to you the manner of diſcovering it, and leave the reſt to your better judgment.

You muſt know then, Sir, that Gibraltar is always attended to with great circumſpection. The city, town, and fortification are all upon a rock, and ſand; of which the whole peninſula is compoſed: as nature changes the face of the rock, the engineers have a watchful eye to apply art in forming the defences where nature fails; a particular inſtance of which happened in the courſe of the preſent year, by the craggy part of the rock falling away, ſo as to admit the probability of an entrance into the fortification;

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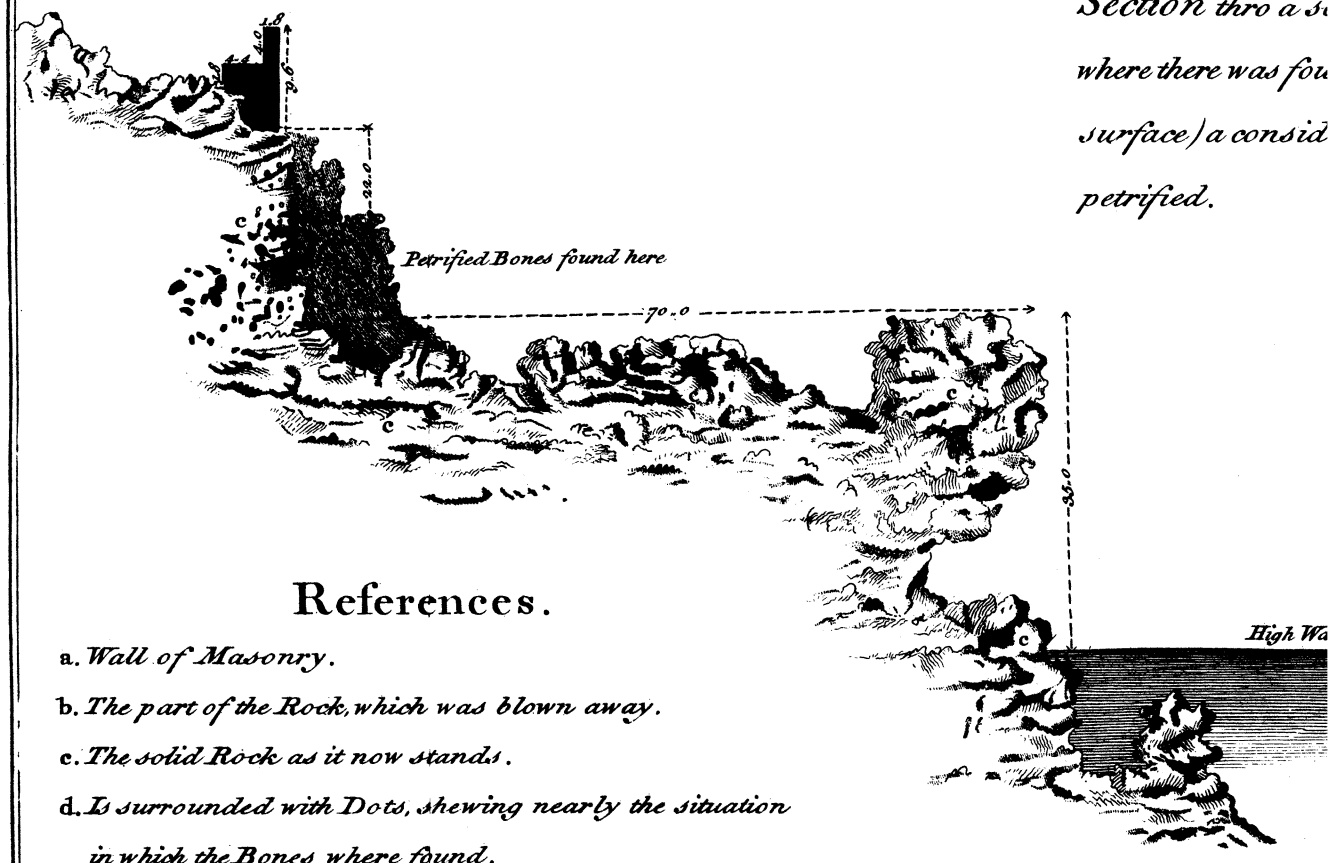

References.

a. *Wall of Masonry.*

b. *The part of the Rock, which was blown away.*

c. *The solid Rock as it now stands.*

d. *Is surrounded with Dots, shewing nearly the situation in which the Bones where found.*

NB. The Rock near where the Bones are, is Free Stone of a Reddish Colour intermixed with Blue Lime Stone, of which the rest of the Rock is composed.

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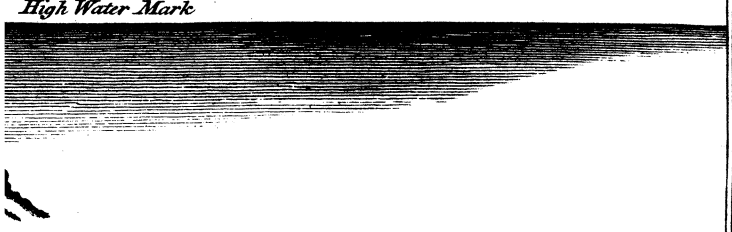
was found / about ten feet from the nearest
considerable Quantity of Bones quite



J. Mynde sculp.

tion; to obſtruct which, the wall marked *a*, in the incloſed ſketch, TAB. X. was erected 70 feet diſtant from the ſea ſhore, and 57 feet perpendicular above high water mark. In blowing up the rock to make way for the foundation of the ſaid wall, there was diſcovered conſiderable quantities of petrified bones, as you may perceive upon examining the piece of rock, which you may be certain was taken from the ſpot by Colonel Green, and has been in the poſſeſſion of no perſon but himſelf, till delivered to,

DEAR SIR,

Your much obliged,

and moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

Tower,
17 Dec. 1769.

John Boddington.

DEAR SIR,

BY the examination of two pieces of the rock of Gibraltar, which are in my poſſeſſion, I find that they are not, what I, at firſt, took them to be, *human* bones, but thoſe of ſome quadrupede. I diſcovered this, with my brother's aſſiſtance, by clearing the teeth of the cruſt that covered them, ſo as to ſee their ſhape more diſtinctly.

The two maſſes of bones are blended with pieces of the marble, of which the whole rock of Gibral-

tar,

tar, as I am informed, is compoſed; and all the conſtituent pieces are cemented ſtrongly together with a browniſh-coloured calcareous cryſtallization, or ſtalactite. Where the interſtices are large, there are vacant ſpaces; and the ſurfaces of all ſuch cavities are covered with granulated cryſtallization about $\frac{1}{6}$ of an inch thick.

This cryſtallized cruſt, no doubt, was depoſited from the water paſſing through the cavern in which the bones had been lodged; and by ſoaking through the porous ſubſtance of every bone, the water had likewiſe depoſited a cruſt of the ſame nature, but much thinner, on all the internal ſurfaces of the hollow and ſpongy bones. The bones were not in any other ſenſe petrified.

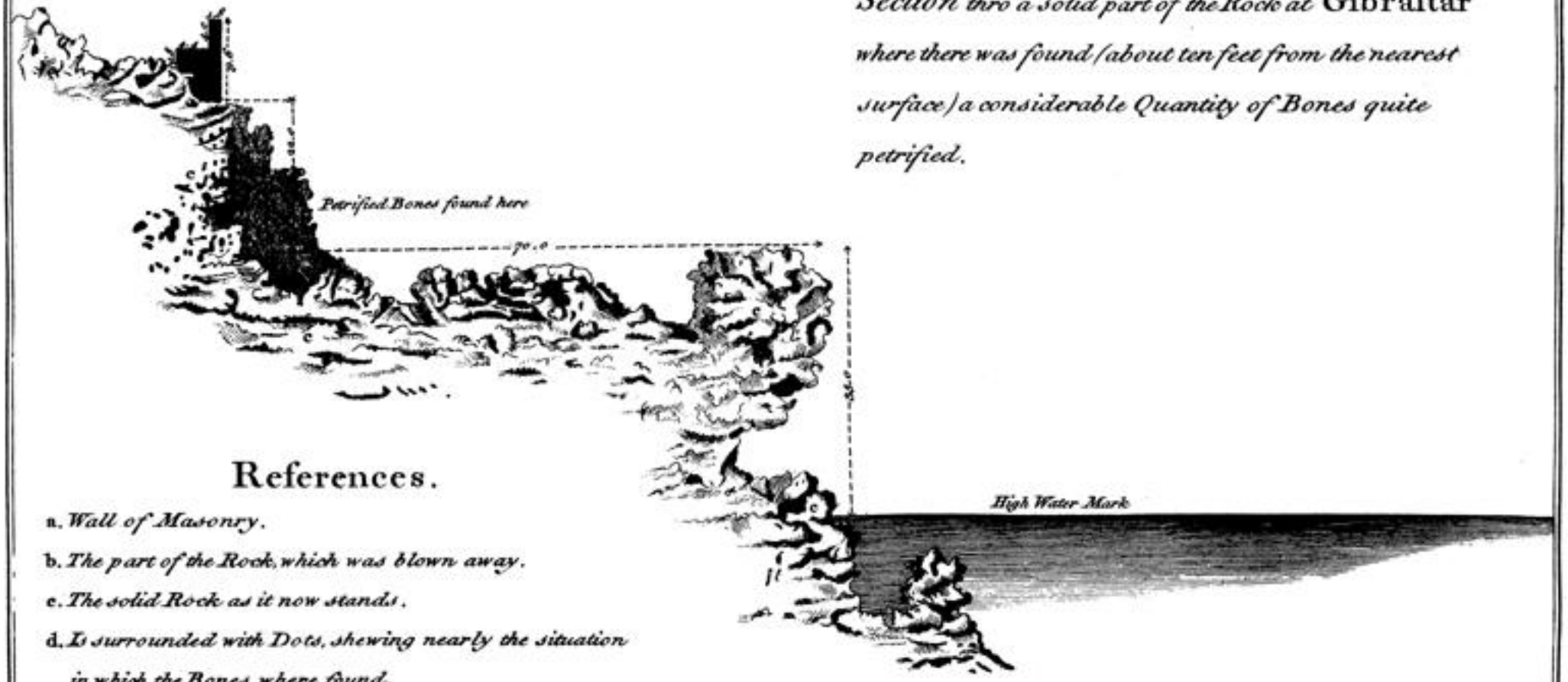
I am,

Dear Sir,

moſt faithfully yours,

William Hunter.

Section thro a solid part of the Rock at Gibraltar *where there was found (about ten feet from the nearest surface) a considerable Quantity of Bones quite petrified.*



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